

properly constructed serpentaria, in this country, our knowledge regarding their habits will remain as limited as it now is.

H. M. PHIPSON,

Hon. Secy., Bo. Nat. Hist. Society.

Bombay, 6th October, 1891.

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VI.—HOW THE MONITOR OR GHORAPAD (*VARANUS BENGALENSIS*) DEFENDS ITSELF.

To-day, whilst reading in the verandah, I heard an unusual sort of noise, as of some creature careering over the gravel, and immediately got up to see what it was. A terrier, who had been asleep on the verandah steps, had also been disturbed by the noise, and when I looked up I found him standing face to face with a Ghorapad, or Monitor Lizard, about 3 feet long. They both appeared to be much astonished at the other's appearance. The Ghorapad evidently came to the conclusion that if there was to be a row in such an open space it ought to be fought out at once, and prepared himself accordingly, arching his back, swelling out the pouch under his throat, darting out his tongue in snake-like fashion, and hissing furiously. The dog for some time did not know what to make of such a strange creature, but eventually came to the conclusion that it ought to be worried and killed. He commenced the attack by rushing at his opponent's head, but the big lizard was equal to the occasion, and by suddenly turning round, presented his tail to the enemy, lashing out furiously with it and sending the gravel flying in all directions. Two or three times the dog returned to the attack, but always to find a tail where the head ought to be. Meanwhile a patiwalla, hearing the noise, came on the scene, but quickly disappeared muttering something to himself of which only the words distinctly heard were "Karna ki waste." He shortly reappeared with a broad grin on his face and a thick blanket in his hand which he carefully threw over the Ghorapad, but the active creature slipped from under the *cumbli* and scuttled off for dear life towards the flower beds into which he escaped, thus saving his skin from adorning the family tom-tom, and depriving Gopal of a most tasty dish.

GEORGE K. WASEY.

Marmagoa, 8th October, 1891.

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VII.—BOMBAY FERNERIES.

With reference to the paper on "Bombay Ferneries," it has long appeared to me that the delightful recreation of gardening is much neglected in our large sea-side stations, and Mr. Carstensen will be doing Bombay a service if he succeeds in setting on foot a more active love of fern-growing—I say *active* advisedly; for growing ferns, or, indeed, any plants, in a vicarious way by